



MINUTES OF THE MILLVILLE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

APRIL 12, 2022 @ 7:00 P.M.

1. **Call to Order:**

Mayor Belinko called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the **Pledge of Allegiance**. **Present:** Council Members Sharon Brienza, Barbara Ryer, Robert Wisgirda, Pete Michel, Town Solicitor Seth Thompson, Town Engineer Andrew Lyons, Finance Director Lisa Wynn, Code & Building Officer Eric Evans, Town Clerk Wendy Mardini. Town Manager Debbie Botchie via phone.

2. **Motion to Enter into Executive Session:**

Mayor Ron Belinko advised that the Executive Session was not held because Town Manager Debbie Botchie fell ill and without her input in the evaluation of staff and salaries, the session would be useless. He said that they would have to reschedule the Executive Session and vote on matters at the next meeting scheduled for April 26, 2022.

3. **Citizens Privilege:** None

4. **Appointments:**

Mayor Ron Belinko advised that there were 3 candidates interviewed for the position on the Board of Adjustment. After careful consideration, Mayor Belinko nominated Mr. David C. VanStone for the position.

Council Member Ryer made a motion to approve the nomination of David C. VanStone for Board of Adjustment and was seconded by Council Member Wisgirda. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Mr. VanStone was sworn in by Town Clerk Wendy Mardini as a member of the Board of Adjustment.

5. **Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes**

- A. March 15, 2022
- B. March 22, 2022

Council Member Brienza wanted to clarify a correction in the minutes of the March 15, 2022, meeting. Ms. Brienza pointed out that there was an error on page 9 under New Business - 11. (E). The word "unanimous" was changed to "The vote was carried 4-1." This was confirmed as being changed by Town Clerk Wendy Mardini.

Council Member Ryer made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 15, 2022, and March 22, 2022, meetings and was seconded by Council Member Brienza. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

6. **Financial Report:** Treasurer, Barbara Ryer

General Fund Revenue:	\$234,927.00
General Fund Expenditures:	\$ 70,827.00
Restricted Revenue:	\$231,670.00
Restricted Expense:	\$ 95,589.00

7. **Administrative Matters:** Town Manager, Debbie Botchie

Town Manager Debbie Botchie was absent from this meeting; however, her report was available. Mayor Belinko gave a quick review and entertained any questions.

Council Member Brienza wanted to know if Ms. Botchie, DSP, and Eric Evans had met with the young adults that caused the damage in the bathrooms at Evans Park. The meeting was scheduled to take place on April 13th; however, it was postponed due to Ms. Botchie's illness.

Council Member Ryer advised that on March 15, 2022, she requested a complete copy of the ARPA report that was submitted to the US Treasury. Finance Director Lisa Wynn advised that she attended a Zoom meeting in this regard, and they had just opened up for the reporting which is due April 30th.

8. **New Business:**

A. **Public Hearing Notice - Secretary Robert Wisgirda:** Notice of the following public hearing was posted in the legal section of the March 11, 2022, issue of the Coastal Point, and on the Town website and bulletin board on March 8, 2022.

B. Resolution 22-08. This Resolution is to request amendments to the Town of Millville's Charter, Section 7, entitled "Manner of Holding Annual Municipal Election", at subsection (a), regarding changing the closing time at the Municipal Election; Section 16 entitled "Secretary", at subsection (A) removing an inconsistency.

Synopsis: *If approved, the closing time at the municipal election will be 6:00 p.m. prevailing time instead of the current 8:00 p.m. prevailing time. The inconsistency under "Secretary" to remove "for a one-year term." Once the resolution is approved, the Town Manager will forward the resolution along with a draft bill to be sent to Senator Hocker and Representative Gray, to present the General Assembly for passage.*

Public Hearing was opened by Mayor Belinko. He stated that there were no written or oral comments submitted to Ms. Botchie regarding election hours.

Ms. Botchie was available via cell phone for any questions or comments from the Council. Mayor Belinko asked her to explain the reason the Town wanted to change the Charter regarding the election hour closing from 8:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Ms. Botchie advised that there were only 13 individuals who voted after 6:00 p.m. and Seth Thompson, Esq. suggested that the additional hours took a strain on the volunteers, supporting another reason to close at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Thompson went on to point out that the town has not had an election in quite some time and the Charter was reincorporated approximately three years ago extending the election hours. Since the election takes place on a Saturday, it sounded to him that the practical experience of having the longer election hours was such that the last two hours were more of a burden than benefit.

Mayor Belinko asked if there were any other comments or questions, there were none. He proceeded to close the public hearing.

- C. Discuss, consider and possible vote on Executive Session matters. (*Not applicable - meeting was cancelled*)
- D. Discuss, consider and possible vote on Resolution 22-08.

Council Member Brienza made a motion to approve Resolution 22-08 and the motion was seconded by Council Member Ryer.

Mayor Belinko asked for a roll call as follows:

<i>Robert Wisgirda</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Sharon Brienza</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Ron Belinko</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Barbara Ryer</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Pete Michel</i>	<i>Yes</i>

The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

- E. Discuss, consider and possible vote on Resolution 22-10.
Synopsis: Resolution 22-10 establishes the fee schedule for FY23.
 Mayor Belinko started out by commenting on the fees for Evans Park and the fact that we are expending money to run the Community Center in terms of opening, closing, costs for staff to host, electric and heating/AC costs. We started out with a learning curve, and we now have a better understanding of what it takes to run the Center.

Council Member Wisgirda commented about the pickleball courts and the cost of tournaments, questioning if that fee was for all three courts at one time. Mayor Belinko explained that it was in fact the fee for a full day of pickleball tournaments. Mr. Wisgirda asked if the public would be allowed to play

during that time and Mayor Belinko further explained that when there was a tournament going on that the courts would be closed to the public.

Council Member Brienza made a motion to approve Resolution 22-08 and the motion was seconded by Council Member Ryer.

Mayor Belinko asked for a roll call as follows:

Robert Wisgirda Yes

Sharon Brienza Yes

Ron Belinko Yes

Barbara Ryer Yes

Pete Michel Yes

The motion carried unanimous 5-0

- F. Discuss, consider and possible vote on the Town of Millville FY23 Organizational Chart. - Mayor Ron Belinko

For clarification purposes, Council Member Ryer questioned if the Financial Assistant answered to the Financial Director. Ms. Botchie advised that the Financial Assistant reports directly to the Town Manager.

Mayor Belinko approved the Organizational Chart, asked for all those in favor of approving the Organizational Chart, all agreed.

9. **Old Business:**

Continue discussions on FY23 Budget Draft - Finance Director Lisa Wynn.

Continued discussion began on the Budget Draft. Finance Director, Lisa Wynn, began the discussion on the proposed budget, taking questions from the Council. Ms. Wynn pointed out that the budget for the council members will increase for meetings and dinners since it was expected that all five members would be attending these functions.

Ms. Wynn also addressed why the budget was increased for Evans Park stating that there would be new equipment, uniforms, phone, and miscellaneous tools that would be needed for the groundskeeper. She also pointed out an increase under transfer tax for a laptop at Evans Park.

Ms. Ryer continued the conversation about gift cards for the town employees which was originally \$50.00. Last year because of the compensation package, Council agreed to increase it to \$100.00 per employee. She suggested that it be removed off the budget and be revisited at the end of the year. Ms. Brienza agreed with Ms. Ryer. Council Member Michel disagreed with both Council Members and said that the gift cards should be left at \$100.00. Ms. Botchie stated that last year Council Member Ryer requested the \$100 gift card for the staff members which Council

approved. Therefore, that line item was added this year and stated if council approved. Ms. Botchie stated that if Council wanted it removed, it was up to them.

Mayor Belinko agreed with Mr. Michel that it should be kept on the budget. He felt that a \$100.00 gift card for staff was reasonable and would show Council's appreciation for their work during the year. He added that he was a firm believer of rewarding the staff appropriately. Ms. Botchie thanked the Mayor for his comments, adding that these kinds of actions take a toll on the staff, making them feel underappreciated.

Ms. Ryer said she felt the Council has been very kind to the staff and they have great respect for everyone that works for the Town. The Council showed it when they awarded the ARPA funds to the staff, which she said was their form of appreciation. Ms. Ryer went on by stating that no other town received ARPA funds and that showed they appreciate the staff.

Ms. Brienza agreed with Ms. Ryer stating that she thought there were a lot of things that Council does that show they appreciate the staff. She stated that whether the staff received a \$50.00 gift certificate or a \$100.00 gift certificate, the purpose of that was for their holiday dinner, noting that there is going to be a dinner this year for everyone. Stating again that she agreed with Ms. Ryer.

Mayor Belinko respectfully disagreed with Ms. Ryer and Ms. Brienza, stating that he is a firm believer of rewarding staff and asking for a \$100.00 gift certificate in appreciation was reasonable. Mr. Wisgirda stated that Council was not saying it would not happen, but it would be considered at a later date and did not see anything wrong with that.

Seth Thompson, Esq. said that the budget was not up for a vote tonight and that there were other discussions needed in this regard and it was something that Council can consider when voting on the budget at the next meeting.

Mr. Wisgirda confirmed with Mr. Thompson, for clarification purposes, that they were not voting on this item at the moment, and it would be voted on after the Executive Session.

The Mayor asked for any further discussion on the budget and there was none.

10. **Citizens' Privilege:** None
11. **Announcement of next meeting:** April 26, 2022
12. **Adjournment:** 7:46 p.m.

Council Member Wisgirda motioned to adjourn, seconded by Council Member Brienza, to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 p.m. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Town Clerk Wendy Mardini